

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 14-15, and 17-19 as follows:

1-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A joint formed at a junction between adjacent boards, the joint comprising:

a first board, comprising an upper surface, a lower surface and a groove;

a second board joined to the first board, and comprising an upper surface, a lower surface[[],]

and a tongue, said upper surface of said first board and said upper surface of said second board abutting each other;

a first equalizing cavity located adjacent to an upper end of a proximal end of the tongue[[],]  
below said abutting surfaces;

wherein a distal end of the tongue is smaller than a proximal end of the groove;

a second equalizing cavity, formed by a gap between the proximal end of the groove and the distal end of the tongue; and

further comprising glue disposed in at least one of the first equalizing cavity and the second equalizing cavity.

15. (Currently Amended) A joint formed at a junction between adjacent boards, the joint comprising:

a first board, comprising an upper surface, a lower surface and a groove;

a second board joined to the first board, and comprising an upper surface, a lower surface[[],]  
and a tongue, said upper surface of said first board and said upper surface of said second board  
abutting each other;

a first equalizing cavity located adjacent to an upper end of a proximal end of the tongue[[],]  
below said abutting surfaces;

wherein a distal end of the tongue is smaller than a proximal end of the groove;

a second equalizing cavity, formed by a gap between the proximal end of the groove and the  
distal end of the tongue, wherein at least one of the first equalizing cavity and the second equalizing  
cavity extends to the lower surface of the second board.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A joint formed at a junction between adjacent boards, the joint  
comprising:

a first board, comprising an upper surface, a lower surface and a groove;

a second board joined to the first board, and comprising an upper surface, a lower surface[[],]  
and a tongue, said upper surface of said first board and said upper surface of said second board  
abutting each other;

a first equalizing cavity located adjacent to an upper end of a proximal end of the tongue[[],]  
below said abutting surfaces;

wherein a distal end of the tongue is smaller than a proximal end of the groove;

a second equalizing cavity, formed by a gap between the proximal end of the groove and the distal end of the tongue, wherein the tongue comprises at least one guiding wedge on an upper surface or a lower surface thereof, whereby the at least one guiding wedge contacts an inner surface of the groove.

18. (Currently Amended) A joint formed at a junction between adjacent boards, the joint comprising:

a first board, comprising an upper surface, a lower surface and a groove;  
a second board joined to the first board, and comprising an upper surface, a lower surface, and a tongue, said upper surface of said first board and said upper surface of said second board abutting each other; and  
said first board and said second board defining a gap therebetween; and  
a hole, in fluid communication with said gap, said hole having an opening below said groove.

19. (Currently Amended) The joint of claim 18, wherein said hole extends from said joint towards a proximal section of said first or second [[panel]] boards.

20. (Previously Presented) The joint of claim 18, wherein said hole extends towards said lower surface of said first or second board.

21. (Previously Presented) The joint of claim 18, wherein said hole is a vent through one of said boards.

22. (Previously Presented) The joint of claim 21, wherein said vent has a terminal end at said lower surface of said board.

23. (Previously Presented) A method for assembling floor boards to form a joint therebetween, the method comprising:

providing:

a first board, said first board comprising an upper surface, a lower surface and a groove;

a second board joined to the first board, and comprising an upper surface, a lower surface, and a tongue; and

glue, disposed on at least one of said tongue and said groove;

mating said groove of said first board with said tongue of said second board; and

directing said glue away from said upper surface and towards the lower surface of said boards.